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DDS&T-1696/71

2 June 1971

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: , EO/OSA

SUBJECT : Appreciation for Support to the DD/S&T Career  
Development Course #5

Dear Bob,

I would like to express my appreciation, as well as that of the class, for your efforts in setting up the Office of Special Activities presentations to the Fifth Career Development Course. It was an excellent job, professionally done, and was reflected in the high level of the presentations.

Enclosed are the Summary Critiques, which elucidate more specifically the thoughts of the class with respect to your efforts. The class is, in general, a critical one, and not easily moved to the high praise shown in the critique. In addition to the comments on the in-house portion, I am including the comments on that portion of the West Coast trip arranged by your Office. Unfortunately, I missed the Edwards-Palmdale portion, which was apparently very well run and much appreciated.

Once again, many thanks to you and the OSA staff for your time and trouble in giving a series of outstanding presentations.

Director  
DD/S&T Career Development Course #5

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Attachments: A/S

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## Class Critique - OSA

General

There was a unanimous agreement that OSA gave a fine presentation. It was apparent that this Office expended a considerable effort to make the presentation lucid, interesting, and informative, and, as such, should be complimented.

Specific Comments and Recommendations

The most positive class comments were directed at the presentations by [redacted] and Gen. Knowles (very 25X1A frank and direct). The class was appreciative of the obvious effort put forth by the Office in the successful attempt to make the four days informative. Perhaps surprisingly, the weather briefings were well received, due at least in part to the alert (eventually aborted) which was called when the group was present.

Areas in which the class felt too much time was spent were: (1) the talk on maintenance and supply - overlong for the importance of the topic and (2) the talk on aircraft electronics which, in its detail, was superfluous after the OEL/ASD briefing. Otherwise, the apportionment of time was generally felt to be correct.

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Summary Critique: West Coast Trip (1st Half)

The West Coast Trip was considered by the class to be one of the highlights of the course. The opportunity to visit facilities, view equipment, and talk to operational personnel effectively complimented the Headquarters briefings. All believed the trip to be an essential part of this and any future CDC's.

AEC

The tour of the AEC site was well-organized and efficiently run considering the great dispersion of facilities and points of interest. It was generally felt that too much time was devoted to the moribund nuclear rocket program, although all considered it interesting. The trip well complimented the earlier NED briefings and the trips to Oak Ridge and Savannah River.

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The incapacitation of the "A" vehicle and that test program was a disappointment. Had that program been active while we were there, the trip would have been much more worthwhile. The class was unanimous in criticizing the lengthy briefing which preceded the tour of the physical facilities. Not only was it overly long, it also covered material previously discussed in earlier briefings.

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Vandenberg AFB

25X1A      Witnessing the Corona launch was enough to make this trip worthwhile in itself. It is certainly recommended that this trip for future courses be coordinated so as to allow for observation of an actual launch. Such an event does much to give a sense of "reality" to the briefings presented on the subject. Some class members expressed disappointment over the unclassified nature of the tour, but in general the handling of the visit by [ ] was considered very good and the trip itself interesting and worthwhile.

Edwards AFB - Palmdale

25X1A      This was unanimously considered the highlight of the West Coast Trip. The timing of presentations, the display of equipment, the demonstration flight, and the coordination with the later trip to Palmdale all reflected excellent coordination and planning. The class recommends that special commendation be given [ ] for his efforts. Every critique described this tour with superlatives. All agreed that the Palmdale visit was also worthwhile and should be retained.

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COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

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C/AMS/OSA

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Attached are comments from the Course Director and the students of DDS&T Career Development Course No. 5. Obviously the OSA briefings and tours were very well received reflecting a considerable effort on the part of each office. My personal appreciation for your assistance.

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